



**Indiana
Department
of
Health**

Drug Overdose Prevention Newscast

April 18, 2023

Updates

Senate Bill 1 Updates

[Senate Bill 1](#) continues to make its way through the General Assembly. Authored by Sen. Michael Crider, the bill proposes expansions to mental health services in Indiana. Many Hoosiers and lawmakers alike shared personal testimonies about mental health and addiction, noting that the current system is outdated and ineffective. In fact, an Indiana Behavioral Health Commission [report](#) estimates that untreated mental illness costs Indiana \$4.2 billion annually.

The House Public Health committee unanimously passed the bill earlier this month. It has strong bipartisan support, but the next step is allocating funding for the mental health services proposed in the bill. Under Senate Bill 1, a 24/7 suicide crisis hotline would be established in addition to mobile crisis teams that are designed to respond to respond to mental health incidents. Supporters say they will continue to advocate for the bill as the budget is drafted. Looking forward, Senate Bill 1 heads to the House Ways and Means committee for approval.

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Proposed Mandates for Xylazine Testing

Indiana coroners are set to begin testing opioid overdose victims for xylazine under [House Bill 1286](#). Authored by Representative Jennifer Meltzer, the bill mandates toxicology screenings if the coroner reasonably suspects the cause of a person's death to be accidental or intentional opioid overdose.

Xylazine is a sedative used in veterinary medicine. According to the U.S. FDA, xylazine and fentanyl mixtures have been identified in 48 of 50 states, including Indiana. It is infiltrating illicit drug supplies across the nation and is not safe for human use. As xylazine is an increasing public health threat in Indiana, public health officials and law enforcement are taking measures to collect data about exposure.

Abbi Raben, a representative from the Indiana Coroners Association, notes that a majority of coroners already test for xylazine. Thus, House Bill 1286 would not incur a significant costs or administrative burdens. "The coroners fully support this legislation," she said. House Bill 1286 is headed to Gov. Eric Holcomb to be signed into law.

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New *Beyond Substance* Episode

In the latest episode of *Beyond Substance*, listeners will hear from two inspirational women who each lost a son to a drug overdose event. Justin and Alfie have channeled their pain into helping people with substance use disorder and their families resulting in programs and advocacy.



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Upcoming Events

More than a DSM Code: Addressing Stigma Experienced by Families

9:30 a.m.—11 a.m. PDT, April 20
Hosted by: Northwest MHTTC

The stigma attached to mental health disorders is entrenched within the child-serving systems and extends to the family members of children living with complex behavioral health challenges. Parents and caregivers often feel dismissed, blamed for their child's challenges, or perceived as an extension of their child's diagnoses. This 90-minute webinar will present a call to action to challenge the status quo and offer strategies for addressing stigmatizing behaviors.

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)

De-escalation Training

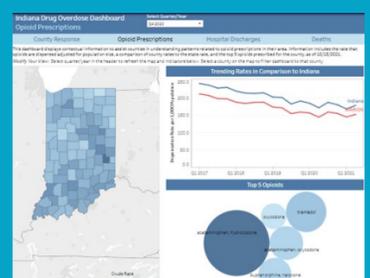
8:45 a.m.—11 a.m. CDT, April 25
Hosted by: Great Lakes MHTTC

De-escalating a mental health crisis is a very difficult skill set and starts with the worker calming themselves and maintaining their composure as they move toward the situation. Fear elicits a threat response in both the upset person and the one trying to help. This means that without specific strategies it is common for the worker to inadvertently worsen the situation as they react to the "noise" of the situation. This training will equip learners with skills to regroup themselves in stressful situations.

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Indiana Drug Overdose Dashboard

Please visit the [Indiana Drug Overdose Dashboard](#), where you will find data from 2017 up to provisional data for 2021. In this dashboard, you will find data regarding opioid prescriptions, hospital discharges, and drug-related deaths. You can use this dashboard to explore overdose data at the county and state levels.



To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers

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